

He chose the latter, and died a poor man. But his ^{was} the glory of holding aloft among the nations the scientific name

England for a period of forty years. of The outward and visible signs of fame were also ^{of} less account to him than to most men. He had been loaded ^{with} scientific honours from all parts of the world. Without, I imagine, a dissentient voice, he was regarded as ^{the} prince of the physical investigators of the present age. The ^{highest} scientific position in this country he had, however, never ^{filled}. When the late excellent and lamented Lord Wrottesley resigned the presidency of the Royal Society, a deputation from the council, consisting of his lordship, Mr. Grove, ^{and} Mr. Gassiot, waited upon Faraday, to urge him to accept ^{the} president's chair. All that argument or friendly persuasion could do was done to induce him to yield to the wishes ^{of} the council, which was also the unanimous wish of scientific ^{men}. A knowledge of the quickness of his own nature had ^{induced} in Faraday the habit of requiring an interval of reflection, before he decided upon any question of importance. ^{In} the present instance he followed his usual habit, and ^{begged} for a little time.

On the following morning, I went up to his room, ^{and} ^{said} on entering that I had come to him with some anxiety ^{of} ^{mind}. He demanded its cause, and I responded "lest you ^{should} have decided against the wishes of the deputation ^{that} ^{waited} on you yesterday." "You would not urge me to undertake this responsibility," he said. "I not only urge you," ^{was} ^{my} reply, "but I consider it your bounden *duty* to accept ^{it}." He spoke of the labour that it would involve; urged ^{that} ^{it} was not in his nature to take things easy; and that ^{if} ^{he} became president, he would surely have to stir many ^{new} questions, and agitate for some changes. I said that ⁱⁿ ^{such} cases he would find himself supported by the youth ^{and} strength of the royal society. This, however, did ^{not} ^{seem} to satisfy him. Mrs. Faraday came into the room, ^{and} ^{he} appealed to her. Her decision was adverse, and I deprecated her decision. "Tyndall," he said at length, "I must ^{remain} plain Michael Faraday to the last; and let me

now tell you,
that if I accepted the honour which the royal
society desires
to confer upon me, I would not answer for the
integrity of my
intellect for a single year." I urged him no more,
and Lord
Wrottesley had a most worthy successor in Sir
Benjamin
Brodie.

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